



# Connecting *through* Service

**2013 Annual Report**



Washington Commission for National and Community Service



# The Washington Commission for National and Community Service

*State commissions administer national service programs to promote civic engagement and foster the ethic of service while meeting real community needs. Local community-based organizations, school districts, and state agencies apply for AmeriCorps grants through their state commissions.*

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service was created in 1994 to implement national service initiatives, provide training and technical assistance, evaluate programs, and leverage federal dollars with local, state, and

private-sector resources. For the past 19 years, the Commission has administered \$213.5 million in federal grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).



## 2013 AmeriCorps State Programs

- Clallam County Family YMCA – North Olympic AmeriCorps
- Collage Access Now
- College Success Foundation – College and Career Advising Corps
- Communities in Schools of Washington
- Community Youth Services – AmeriCorps-Youth in Service
- Department of Ecology – Washington Conservation Corps
- EarthCorps – EarthCorps AmeriCorps
- Employment Security Department – Washington Reading Corps
- Employment Security Department – Washington Service Corps
- Girl Scouts of Western Washington – Leaders in Service
- Habitat for Humanity – Seattle-King County
- Kitsap Community Resources – KCR/AmeriCorps
- Life Works – Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network
- Northwest Leadership Foundation – Urban Leaders in Training
- Pasco School District No. 1 – Regional Service Corps
- Northeast Washington Educational Service District 101 – Spokane Service Team
- Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs – Vet Corps

## Our Programs

In 2013, 1,529 AmeriCorps State members served in areas of education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures, economic opportunity, veterans and military families, and disaster response programs funded by the WCNCs.

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# Connecting *through* Service



I believe in the power of people to bring about change where it is most needed. Sometimes the change is simple, such as the personal connection an AmeriCorps member makes with another person that builds the bonds of community. At other times the results are different, like when a tutor works with a struggling student and teaches her to read, opening the doors to better economic opportunities down the road.

Anyone who volunteers knows the joy and satisfaction that comes from service, because selfless acts not only help the individuals being served, but also benefit those providing the service. Recent studies from the Corporation for National and Community Service found that those serving make connections and learn valuable skills that can help them find a job later. National service is a victory for all involved.

That last part is especially important, as the majority of our AmeriCorps members come from a pool of young adults who are eager for this opportunity to serve their nation. We send these AmeriCorps members into tough situations for a service year as education tutors, disaster responders, poverty fighters – just to name a few of the ways our members serve – and they bring an energy and creativity to their assignments that is impressive, to say the least.

Even better, the service year provides a reward that goes beyond the good works. AmeriCorps members earn a scholarship to reduce college costs or repay student loans. The service year not only benefits communities, it increases economic opportunity for AmeriCorps members by encouraging post-secondary education and reducing student debt. Their service experiences also increase the civic activity and awareness of AmeriCorps members while transforming their lives for the better, whether they came to us as a high school dropout or a college graduate.

That's the beauty of national service – the ability to improve lives while transforming communities through the power of our people. These Americans give a year or more to serve their nation, but they get so much more in return – the chance to learn, lead, grow, explore new opportunities, and become stronger citizens. Washington is stronger because of their service.

In service,

Debbie Schuffenhauer  
Executive Director  
Washington Commission for National and Community Service





## Statewide 2013 Accomplishments

generated **90,073** volunteers | mentored **28,949** individuals |  
 tutored **8,063** K-6 students | provided services to more than **82,773**  
 disadvantaged children and youth | engaged **13,138** “baby boomers” |  
 helped **3,310** clients live independently in their homes in community-  
 based settings | engaged **3,038** disadvantaged children and youth in  
 meaningful service | conducted **470** family literacy events |  
 constructed or improved **338** miles of trails and boardwalks |  
 planted more than **1,200,000** native trees and shrubs |  
 prepared **460** AmeriCorps members for disaster deployment

## AmeriCorps Education Awards

Since 1994, more than 34,000 Washington residents have served. Education awards valued in excess of \$115 million\* earned by these members were used to help cover educational costs, primarily in Washington State’s post-secondary institutions during this same time period (as of March 2014).

\* National Service Trust

## Making *an* Impact beyond Words

“I have grown in incredible ways as a result of my AmeriCorps experience. Entering this program straight out of high school, I went head-first into the real world and learned to take care of myself and others, be responsible in more ways than I’ve ever needed to before, and make sacrifices in order to better my community. AmeriCorps has instilled a dedication to public service that I will carry for the rest of my life.

On a typical day, I provided one-on-one attention to well over 30 underserved elementary school students. To have fostered the current and future success of these children was an honor and a service that I know will have a ripple effect for years to come.” ▲



~Reflection by Meghan McDonnell,  
Washington Reading Corps member with Solid Ground



## Circle of Service

When the Taylor Bridge fire in Central Washington ravaged miles of land and property in the summer of 2012, Christina Escobar was just beginning her Washington Service Corps (WSC) term as coordinator of the Kittitas County/Yakima Valley Red Cross Service to Armed Forces Program. Often one of the first responders to natural disasters, the Red Cross set up shelters for families displaced by the fire, and Escobar spent her time there helping families get the supplies and services they needed. At the same time, Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) members were deployed for firefighting efforts, led by WCC Supervisor Ernie Farmer.

After the fire was extinguished and the immediate emergency ended, Escobar saw a need to restore both the land destroyed by the fire and the community's sense of hope. She launched Operation Lorax, a tree-planting event, named after a Dr. Seuss story about environmental stewardship that Escobar knew through her 5-year-old daughter.

In addition to planting, this project educated local children about the importance of caring for public lands. One local junior high school class concluded their service-learning unit on fire ecology by planting Ponderosa pines – a tree known for its resistance to fire.

Operation Lomax was so successful, USA Weekend magazine awarded it and nine other initiatives, with \$10,000 grants. WCC's Ernie Farmer and WSC's Christina Escobar, along with the other winners, were recognized at a luncheon at the historic Carnegie Library in Washington, D.C., and were featured in the April 21 edition of USA Weekend magazine.

For many WCC members involved in this Make A Difference Day Project, their service brought them full circle: from playing a role in fighting the Taylor Bridge wildfire, to assisting with flood prevention efforts throughout the fall, and finally replanting vegetation to prevent erosion and flooding in the future. ▲



## Citizen Corps

Citizen Corps is the grass-roots movement that actively involves everyone in making communities across America safer, stronger, and better prepared. It helps promote [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov), a public service campaign that encourages preparation for potential emergencies or disasters by stocking an emergency supply kit, making a family communication plan, and staying informed.

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service has served as the State Citizen Corps Council since 2003. The WCNCS administers the Citizen Corps program and supports increased statewide preparedness by encouraging local communities to participate in programs under Citizen Corps, and to engage community members in disaster preparedness and response.

Citizen Corps councils and programs continue to increase across the state. They support the development and growth of Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) and the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). These programs help more citizens get involved in safety and preparedness through activities such as skills-specific training, safety fairs, and National Night Out. The programs are also a valuable resource to the first responder and emergency management agencies of Washington.



A new state agency CERT program has trained more than 350 state employees throughout Washington to support the continuity of operations for their respective agencies.

In addition, the state-sponsored 2013 NW Citizen Corps Expo included CERT, MRC, and amateur radio volunteers working together in a realistic disaster exercise. Almost 200 people were involved in the daylong exercise.

WCNCS supports these activities through grant management and program assistance. Information is available to interested individuals and program managers through [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) and [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov). ▲



# WCNCS Special Initiatives *and* Events



## AmeriCorps Launch

On October 12, 2012, 1,000 enthusiastic AmeriCorps members gathered at the Seattle Center to pledge their personal commitment to “get things done” for America during their year of service in Washington State. We were pleased that Bill Basl, director of AmeriCorps for CNCS, was able to return to his home state to help swear in the class of 2013. As part of the day’s activities, more than 400 AmeriCorps members received training to help them become better prepared for emergencies, and learn about the important role that national service can play in disaster preparedness and response efforts. An AmeriCorps alum, Tracy Connelly, from the City of Seattle Office of Emergency Management offered an engaging and informative session on putting together an emergency preparedness kit on a budget. Another 100 members partnered with Seattle’s EarthCorps on a neighborhood service project. ▲



## Washington Leader Corps

The 2012 Washington Leader Corps training, held in DuPont on December 13-14, targeted individuals who exhibit leadership traits but have not had the opportunity to expand their skills in this area. Facilitated by Jeff Birdsall, Leader Corps is a two-day training experience that provides 50 AmeriCorps and VISTA members from Washington State the opportunity to build leadership skills such as self-awareness, effective communication and listening, and conflict management.



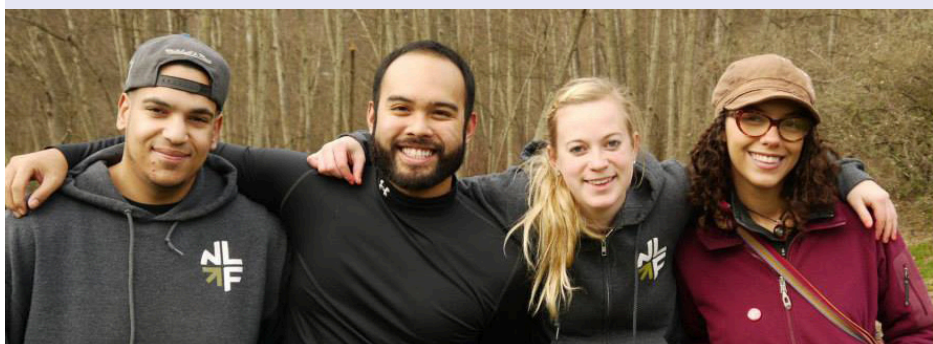


## Seattle Mariners' Salute to Volunteers

In recognition of National Volunteer Week, the Seattle Mariners and WCNCS honored volunteers at the fifth annual "Salute to Volunteers Night" at Safeco Field, April 25, 2013. A pre-game ceremony included a special tribute to the men and women of Washington State that have distinguished themselves for volunteer service to their communities. Twenty-seven of the 44 recipients of the 2013 Governor's Volunteer Service Award in attendance represented a cross section of the estimated 1.83 million adults who volunteered time last year valued at \$4.9 billion. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown out by 10-year old Levi DeWeber of Connell, the youngest award recipient. The more "experienced" honoree, 93-year old Grace Hanson of Renton, also attended. ▲

## Leadership Forum *for* National Service Executives

For the thirteenth year, WCNCS partnered with the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Affairs to offer a unique learning opportunity for AmeriCorps and Senior Corps program staff from across the country. The 2013 session, held in Seattle on June 24-28, focused on Building the Sustainable Organization. The innovative curriculum includes three one-week courses that take place over consecutive summers. Classes are small so attendees have an opportunity to dialogue with award-winning faculty on issues facing national service programs. Attendees complete masters-level coursework designed to enhance their skills building a sustainable organization, performance-based budgeting, and program assessment in an environment that values shared experiences and insights from fellow attendees and faculty. Those who complete the three-course series earn a Certificate in Nonprofit and National Service Management from the University of Washington. ▼



## Governor's Volunteer Service Awards

Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed April 21-27, 2013, as Washington Volunteer Appreciation Week to recognize the countless acts of service performed by one of Washington's most valuable assets – its volunteers. To celebrate, First Lady Trudi Inslee hosted the ninth annual "Governor's Volunteer Service Awards" on April 25 to honor 44 volunteers for their dedication and commitment to improve their communities through service. Local Volunteer Centers, Citizen Corps Councils, Senior Corps, and AmeriCorps programs from across the state nominated the honorees for representing the best qualities among those who serve their communities. ▼





# Serving Communities, Changing Lives



## Helping Neighbors *in the* North

From July through September 2013, the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) deployed AmeriCorps members and WCC crew supervisors to assist with disaster response efforts in Galena, Alaska, and other communities along the Yukon River. These crews provided 3,123 hours of service. Floodwaters in late May forced most of Galena's 450 residents to evacuate. Most homes, buildings, and other structures were heavily damaged or destroyed. On June 25, President Obama issued a federal disaster declaration for the affected area. The Corporation for National and Community Service then requested the WCC step in to help. They flew to Anchorage where they boarded a smaller aircraft bound for Galena and other locations. Once in Galena, the WCC helped lay the groundwork for other AmeriCorps crews to come in and assist. They set up and operated community shelters, distributed food, clothes and other supplies, and assessed damage to homes and other structures.

*~ Bridget Mason, Washington Conservation Corps Coordinator*

"On August 9 our AmeriCorps team was visited in the remote Yukon River city of Galena by a great group of government officials that included Senator Maria Cantwell of Washington State. It was such an honor to see a senator from our home state visit this community where AmeriCorps teams have worked energetically to help aid recovery from devastating floods.

"AmeriCorps members were hard at work on the community ball field when the group arrived. The ball field is at the heart of the community in Galena. This is where the annual tribal softball tournament is held every summer – teams from villages all over Alaska come to compete. Unfortunately, that would not be the case this summer; the field had been badly damaged by the flooding. The field sits in the center of Galena. Almost everywhere you drive, you pass this symbol of the community. The condition of the field was a constant visual reminder of the pain the community was feeling.

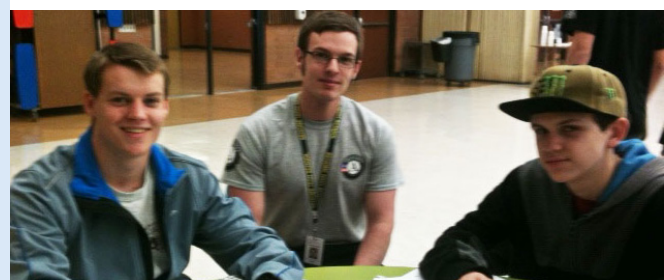
"AmeriCorps members rolled up their sleeves and began removing mangled chain link fencing, pulling bent metal fence posts, gathering endless debris left by flooding, and hauling logs and stumps. Those logs and stumps were then bucked into rounds, split for firewood, and delivered to community members who had lost theirs in the flood – critical for the harsh winter in Galena." ▲

*~ Reflection by Sarah Tomt, Crew Supervisor, Washington Conservation Corps*

## Fostering Success *for* Struggling Students

"The following story highlights just one of the students we supported through the Peer Mentoring Program. Alex was one of the first incoming ninth graders in the 2012-13 school year to be matched with a Peer Mentor through Communities in Schools (CIS) at Sehome High School (SHS). After struggling in eighth grade, his high school transition was certain to be no exception to the trend. By the time he met with Josh, SHS senior and CIS peer mentor, Alex was already failing multiple classes. Early in the year, Alex and Josh got the opportunity to spend the day at a ropes course. This was a full day of team building, facing your fears, and bonding with your mentor. Having spent some time getting to know each other, Josh changed the tone and started playing catch-up in school. Still, this was a challenge. But when the second semester started, Josh helped Alex restock on school supplies and stay organized. Alex is passing all of his classes. As Josh graduates, Alex will have a set of new skills to meet any challenge that his sophomore year has to offer." ▼

*~ Reflection by Louis Walbrek,  
member of Communities in Schools*





# Embodying *the* Strength of Community

"I've been incredibly moved by the families we have worked with. More than anything, I've been grateful to see some of the Habitat repair projects to fruition. One particular homeowner embodies the strength of community I see in White Center. Though working multiple jobs and caring for her two sons, a brother with intellectual disabilities and elderly mother, she was out with tools in hand almost every day helping staff and volunteers. Even after helping tear down her rotting front staircase so that we could rebuild a new, safe one, she would take a break to cook up a Cambodian feast for the staff and volunteers. Throughout my term, which included serving with 100 AmeriCorps volunteers with Spring Clean projects, I have realized that the secret of Habitat's strength is in people, and a philosophy that every person has potential for a positive, efficient contribution." ►

*~ Reflection by Marie Pino,  
Habitat for Humanity –  
Seattle-King County member*



## Extraordinary People doing Extraordinary Things

On October 26, 2012, members of the Spokane Service Team helped Make A Difference Day live up to its name. Members partnered with Center Pointe, a non-profit care facility that provides recreational socialization and educational opportunities for adults with disabilities. AmeriCorps members were excited to help this population, which has been historically marginalized by society. After members organized three rooms to be more functional, Center Pointe will expand their classroom services. AmeriCorps member, Adrian Bishop, said, "Volunteering at Center Pointe was a remarkable experience! I was happy to spend time with an organization that does so much for our community! They are extraordinary people, who do extraordinary things." Coming together as a community can make the biggest difference. ▼

*~ Anna Roesel, Spokane Service Team member*

## Veterans Connecting with Other Veterans

The Washington Vet Corps plays a significant role in positively impacting the quality of life of veterans and military families in Washington State. Vet Corps' AmeriCorps members provide valuable information about an array of services that have helped to stabilize the educational, social, financial, and overall veteran family unit. Without these interventions, many veterans would have opted out of school, employment, and in some cases possibly out of life. The ability for veterans to connect with other veterans is key to their success post military – giving those in transition much needed support, often as the "Battle Buddy." This has strengthened the Vet Corps' connection to the Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs, by providing the initial connection and subsequent services and support to see that the individual is taken care of in a holistic way. Vet Corps members positively impact the quality of life for veterans most any time they come in contact. ▲

*~ Excerpts from a report by Jason Alves, Program  
Manager of the Vet Corps*







## Helping Create a Connection to Local Environment

RSC-AmeriCorps partners with local conservation districts, at which members are placed, to conduct educational programs like Water on Wheels and Salmon in the Classroom. A Salmon Summit is the culminating activity for participating schools in Eastern Washington, the largest of which occurs in the Tri-City area. Students raise fish through the winter and spring, and then release them into an approved water body of water. This activity provides an outdoor learning experience, and creates a personal experience and connection to the river and local environment. During Salmon Summit, students attend field stations to learn about wise use of water, fish tagging, hydroelectric dams, fish transport, native plants, salmon recovery efforts, local wildlife, and other topics. Fifty entities, including federal, tribal, state, county, municipal, corporate, and non-profit organizations contribute financial support, staffing, or goods and services to Salmon Summit. Over 360 volunteers participate in Salmon Summit annually. The AmeriCorps members are an essential part of making the event a smooth-running success by recruiting volunteers, providing safety and crowd control, learning presentation content, and leading educational activities. ▼

~ *Stephan Harrell, Program Director,  
Regional Service Corps*

“AmeriCorps members’ positive attitudes, reliability, and work ethic are an asset to our program. Their support enables us to provide a higher level of service to a greater audience.”

~ *Rachel Little, Benton Conservation District*

## Showing Leadership Early On

Through the Northwest Leadership Foundation, Urban Leaders in Training identifies and develops teams of diverse, emerging leaders to serve marginalized individuals and communities throughout the city of Tacoma. We are seeing significant potential and impact from our members. Sojourner “Sojie” Duxbury is the youngest member of the team, showing incredible maturity, passion, and effectiveness in serving at Urban Grace. For MLK Day, Sojie and her teammates coordinated a service project at Titlow Beach Park. Sojie successfully organized Project Homeless Connect by recruiting, training, and managing church staff and volunteers to provide meals and lodging to 40 homeless individuals. She is taking her learning from this project to collaborate with another local non-profit, Phoenix Housing, to coordinate support for five homeless families. She also has taken the lead in developing a summer art program for community youth. ▲

~ *Kari Young, Director,  
Urban Leaders in Training*





## Connecting *through* Service

“A project with Intermountain AmeriCorps started an unlikely friendship for me that proved the powerful influence of service. Our team gathered together on Martin Luther King Junior Day for a “Knit-a-thon,” welcoming members of adult living facilities to a local church to knit and crochet hats for Aide Bound’s “Hat Project.” The elderly people, most of whom had been part of the “Hat Project” for many years, were encouraged to teach the AmeriCorps members quickly to construct a hat that would go out to needy children in the community.

“That day I chose to sit next to a woman who I expected would take it easy on me and that I would leave with a warm service buzz and a tangled ball of yarn. I never anticipated that day I would meet Alice and for the next month I would see her to the end of her life – and enrich my own in the process.

At 98 years old, Alice was the oldest person at the event so she did not stay much past lunch and I carried on without her assistance the rest of the day. A couple of days after the project, however, I went to visit Alice as I had promised and she rewarded me with more instruction, some yarn, and crocheting needles.

I visited Alice every week and she continued patiently to teach me how to crochet and even gave me books to help me learn on my own. Soon I heard Alice was referring to me as her “new boyfriend” to her family and around her assisted living community. The next time I visited Alice I asked her about the “new boyfriend” – she just smiled back at me with her big beautiful eyes and sighed “yes.”

During our “dates,” Alice told me about her life and I told her about my life. We were on two completely different spectrums of life and had only been friends a short time but we talked as if we had known each other for years. She always made an effort to talk with me until she was completely tired out and politely explained it was time she take a nap.

One day I came at lunchtime when Alice’s door was closed and I knocked on the door and asked her if I could have lunch with her. Alice was not well enough to have lunch and I left that day knowing that my friend Alice did not have much time left on Earth. A few days later I received a call that Alice wanted to see me. Alice did not have a smile and cheer to greet me with as usual, but she gave me her time.

Alice told me very candidly that she was tired and that she would die soon. She told me that day that it would be the last time we meet and she thanked me for my friendship. I did not know what to say to Alice, so I asked her to tell me about her life and she told me about trips she had taken during her life and she told me more about her family. Alice then explained to me how she felt – she explained the dull pain she felt and the soft slow rhythm of her failing heart. I gave Alice a final hug and I thanked her for her friendship. The following day Alice passed away.

I attended Alice’s memorial service and I shared with the gathering there my short relationship with Alice and how she had so positively impacted my life. Her family members, whom I had never met, approached me and told me how grateful they were to finally meet Alice’s “boyfriend.” It was a great way to honor Alice’s life and reflect on the things she had done in nearly a century’s worth of life.

I still have the clipping of Alice’s obituary taped to the wall in my room. It reminds me of many things that were included in my friendship with Alice. I am reminded of putting others first and the spirit of service, but I am also reminded of time and how each of us can make a positive difference in someone else’s life through the commitment of our time. I believe Alice bettered my life with her friendship just as much as I did hers; we both needed each other at that point in our lives.” ▲

~ *Reflection by Phil Boyer, member of Intermountain AmeriCorps, a program of the Washington Service Corps*



## A Big Heart *for* Homeless Hygiene Drive

The AmeriCorps/Kitsap Community Resources Heart for Homeless hygiene drive was a one-week event held in February 2013. During that time, donations were sought from the local community coordinated by 40 KCR AmeriCorps members. Five local stores partnered with the drive and agreed to have a donation box at their store and/or have AmeriCorps members present at their store.

The drive was a success and AmeriCorps collected items to prepare 120 “kits.” The kits contained hygiene items, plus a local resource guide that outlined food banks, shelters, housing resources, protective services, and health resources. A listing of free meal sites was also included. The kits were donated to a local homeless shelter for individuals to receive when they check into the shelter. Mayor Patty Lent joined the team at the culmination celebration of the service project. ►

~ *Jennifer Allik, Program Director, Kitsap Community Resources/AmeriCorps*





## Bringing Back Confidence *and* Smiles

"I have been working with Vaughn since my arrival at Westview Elementary and the start of our after-school homework club in October 2011 – fittingly titled 'Noodling.' Through close coordination with both his third- and fourth-grade teachers, Vaughn and I worked hard as team to keep up on his in-school work and his homework – Vaughn working the hardest, of course.

"The elementary environment is critical for students, as each year is progressively seen as more difficult and each class prepares the students for the following grade level.



However, this year has been especially difficult for Vaughn. Having fallen behind in homework and in-school work – and therefore his self-confidence – he suffered tremendously, which inhibited his concentration and motivation. We worked together through this rough period. Vaughn has

shown a newfound willingness to volunteer answers and strategies to classmates – he is currently on track with his homework, completely independent of any help from me.

"Without the help of programs such as the Washington Reading Corps, many students in similar predicaments will fall short, as will their confidence. I have been privileged with this opportunity to help students like Vaughn discover their own abilities, as well as learn to enjoy and appreciate school. It has proven such a fulfilling experience and I have absolute faith that Vaughn, and many others served by the Washington Reading Corps, will achieve success in academics as well as their future careers." ▲

*~ Reflection by Shannon Rosenbaum, third year member of the Washington Reading Corps at Westview Elementary in Spokane*

## Individual Service *makes* Huge Impact

Lacey Cairns has just completed her second term as the Family Resource Provider with the Arc of Cowlitz County. Lacey is a member who has made a huge impact in the community. In the words of her supervisor, "Lacey has attended dozens of Individual Education Planning meetings with parents. She has helped to ensure things are in place for the weekly playgroup and for families who use the sensory room on their own. She has worked tirelessly to start a weekly respite evening so parents can get a short break from care giving. Lacey took the initiative to start the weekly "Amazing Parents" support group as well as a Saturday play group for families, and she just finished pulling off the Arc's first inclusive day camps for kids with and without disabilities. Without Lacey's AmeriCorps service at Life Works, the Arc would not have had the manpower to serve a fraction of the families that have been served by Lacey." Many of these resources were not available to families prior to the Arc selecting Lacey as their AmeriCorps member. After her service, Lacey was hired by Life Works on a part time basis to continue to facilitate many of the programs that she started. ▼

*~ Jennie Bergman, Program Director, Cowlitz AmeriCorps Network*



## Empowering Young People *to* Succeed

College Success Foundation's AmeriCorps college and career coaches teach middle- and high- school students the importance of thinking about tomorrow, and how their choices today steer them in the future. Members helped over 4,000 students identify their personal interests with potential career paths; learn about colleges that offer those career programs; understand high school graduation and college entrance requirements to be accepted and successful in college; and how to finance that dream. Members have assisted students in seventh and eighth grades to sign up for scholarships, which has led many students to believe that they can have a better life.



While helping students think about their future, members also engaged them in giving back to their communities. Together, they completed service projects at retirement and hospice homes, community gardens, and community centers. At these projects, students were able to make a difference in their respective community with members serving as mentors. ◀

*~ Sue Byers, Chief Academic Officer, College Success Foundation*



## Building Community through Environmental Service

EarthCorps is a Seattle-based nonprofit that builds community through local environmental service by promoting strong communities, healthy habitat and young leaders. Since 1993, EarthCorps has trained hundreds of young adults from around the country to lead hands-on projects that engage 10,000 community volunteers each year in on-the-ground restoration. AmeriCorps members serving in EarthCorps recruit for, coordinate, and manage events ranging from 10 to 500 volunteers. Many of the region's businesses, clubs, community groups, schools, and institutions of higher learning look to EarthCorps to provide excellent volunteer experiences for their constituents.

In February 2013, EarthCorps AmeriCorps crews worked with the Snohomish Conservation District in the Woods Creek watershed near Monroe, Washington. The project was designed to improve water quality and fish habitat in Woods Creek, a major salmon stream, by establishing a health riparian buffer zone of native trees and shrubs along the stream corridor. EarthCorps members, were trained in native plant identification, planting techniques, and riparian restoration best management practices, and worked with the district's staff to install over 3,000 native plants. ▼

~ Erin Thomas, Corps Operations Manager, EarthCorps



## Recognizing *the* Intangible Value of Service

Rosie's Place is a drop-in center for homeless and street youth operated by Community Youth Services of Olympia, Washington. It is a safe place for people ages 24 and under to get food, hygiene supplies, rest, or get out of the rain. Visitors can talk with youth advocates, use computers, play games, join in workshops and activities, or simply hang out. Community Youth Services' Youth in Service program placed AmeriCorps members at Rosie's Place to help youth get the services they need, which may also include clothing, crisis intervention, shelter, family counseling, medical care, drug/alcohol treatment, and goal setting – in addition to just being there to listen.

“Kol returned to Rosie's Place yesterday; I had not seen her for months. I knew where she had been – paving a way for herself in another town. Youth drop in and out of the drop-in center, and it is our job to build constructive relationships, even though those links can end on any given day. Such was the case with Kol after listening to her for the better part of two months. On Monday, she shared with us the most recent chapter of her life. For all the talk about her needs, there was enough space in her overworked heart and brain to still think on us – whether that meant the staff, the room, or the youth. There is a tinge of pride tickling my skin when I recognize it: in the limited time you know someone, somewhere deep in their thoughts, you may still be lying dormant there.” ▲

~ Reflection by Edward Quedado,  
Youth in Service member, serving at Rosie's Place



# WCNCS 2013 Funding

*A wide range of financial contributions are necessary to meet the critical needs of the state, coordinate thousands of AmeriCorps members and volunteers, and promote national service in Washington. Local cities, counties, and school districts have made commitments to identify needs in their communities and address them. For service programs to provide solutions to serious needs in communities there must be ongoing support from local and state organizations, which will ensure national service is part of a long-term strategy to address those needs.*



Local communities have been very supportive in providing funding and training. In addition, communities provide books for students; building materials and technical support for low-income housing construction; safety equipment for environmental restoration and disaster response activities; and space for after-school youth activities.

During the federal fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 (FFY 13), the Washington Commission for National and Community Service received \$17,592,698 in federal funding to provide support for AmeriCorps State programs across Washington. These programs included seven Competitive and ten Formula grants.

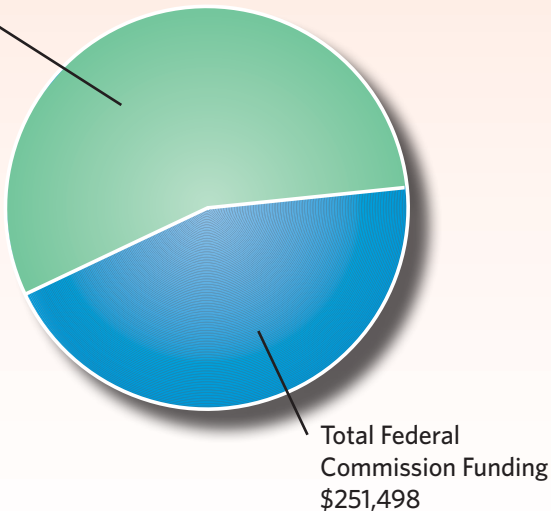
AmeriCorps programs leveraged state, local and in-kind match support on a progressive scale from 24-50 percent. Federal support is used primarily for member living stipends and operational costs needed to administer an AmeriCorps program.

The Washington Commission for National and Community Service receives \$251,498 of federal support to ensure the strong administrative oversight of the AmeriCorps grant programs that it oversees, and \$74,945 to ensure AmeriCorps members with disabilities have access to reasonable accommodations. In addition, the Commission administers a Volunteer Generation Fund grant in the amount of \$217,192 to help build the capacity of the state's volunteer infrastructure.

Since 2003, the Washington Commission for National and Community Service has coordinated Citizen Corps efforts to help promote personal responsibility by developing preparedness plans, training in emergency preparedness, and working with disaster relief, law enforcement, fire, medical, public health, and community service organizations in promoting volunteer service in times of emergency. Funding obtained by the Commission from the Department of Homeland Security, through the Washington State Military, Emergency Management Division totaled \$52,500 for 2013.

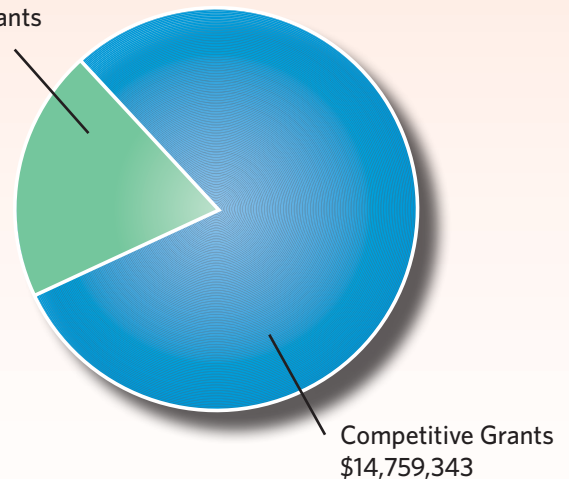
## Commission Funding

Total State and Private Cash/  
In-Kind Match Leveraged  
\$325,504



## AmeriCorps Program Funding

Formula Grants  
\$2,833,355





# The Washington Commission for National *and* Community Service



## Commission Vision Statement

Our vision for Washington State is vibrant and caring neighborhoods and communities strengthened and sustained through service and volunteerism.

## Commission Mission Statement

We seek to expand the ethic of service throughout Washington State by inviting citizens of all ages and backgrounds to contribute their time and talents to strengthen and promote service and volunteerism as strategies for building healthy communities.

## About the Commission

In February 1994, Governor Mike Lowry established the independent, bipartisan Washington State Commission for National and Community Service. The WCNCS is made up of Commissioners appointed by the Governor. The Commission implements AmeriCorps programs in Washington; sets priorities for results-oriented community service programs; provides training and technical assistance; evaluates programs; and leverages federal program dollars with additional local, state and private sector resources.

## WCNCS Commissioners Serving in 2012-2013

**Debbie Aoki**, Washington State Employment Security Department

**John Barnett**, AARP Washington State

**Thomas Bates**, U.S. Attorney's Office Western District of Washington

**Lynne Dodson**, Washington State Labor Council

**Carol Findley**, RSVP and Volunteer Center of Kittitas County

**Kirsten Franklin-Temple**, Corporation for National & Community Service-Washington State Office

**Nick Mott**, Washington State Department of Ecology

**Rhoretta Rhodes**, Vice Chair, Whitworth University

**Axel Swanson**, Board of Clark County Commissioners

**Alan Walker**, United Way of Chelan and Douglas Counties

**Susan Weiss**, Casey Family Programs

**Alison Carl White**, WithinReach

**Greg Williamson**, Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction



## WCNCS Staff

**Denise Berns**, Program Assistant

**Robyn Harris**, Program Officer

**Bruce Lehman**, OFM/Governor's Office Accounting Unit

**Brian Lock**, Senior Program Officer

**Paula Towne**, Citizen Corps Program Coordinator

**Debbie Schuffenhauer**, Executive Director

**Mary Van Verst**, Program Officer





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